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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IO-13 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /114 W
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P R 111854Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2531
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 07969

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UK, PINS, MZ
SUBJECT: POLITICAL STORM OVER MOZAMBIQUE STORY
REF: LONDON 7924 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FATHER HASTINGS' REPORT OF ALLEGED MASSACRES IN MOZAMBIQUE HAS PRODUCED A MAJOR POLITICAL STORM IN BRITIN THAT THREATENS TO JEOPARDIZE PRIME MINISTER CAETANO'S SCHEDULED VISIT NEXT WEEK. RELEASE OF THE REPORT COINCIDES, APPARENTLY FORTUITOUSLY, WITH THE ARRIVAL IN BRITAIN OF MARIO SOARES, EXILED LEADER OF THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY. HE HAS BEEN INVITED BY THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY AS PART OF ITS ONGOING CAM-
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PAIGN TO TORPEDO THE CAETANO VISIT. END SUMMARY.

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2. ALLEGATIONS OF ATROCITIES AND MASSACRES BY PORTUGUESE TROOPS IN MOZAMBIQUE (REFTEL) HAVE PROVOKED A MAJOR POLITICAL STORM IN BRITAIN THAT MAY JEOPARDIZE PRIME MINISTER CAETANO'S SCHEDULED VISIT HERE NEXT WEEK. IN THE FACE OF DEMANDS BY BOTH THE LABOR AND LIBERAL PARTIES THAT THE VISIT BE CANCELED, PRIME MINISTER LET IT BE KNOWN YESTERDAY THAT EVEN IF THE ALLEGATIONS SHOULD BE PROVEN CORRECT, THE INVITATION TO CAETANO WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE WITHDRAWN.
3. THE GUARDIAN TODAY DEMANDED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT THE VISIT BE CANCELED, AND THE TIMES SAID IT SHOULD PROCEED ONLY IF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO PERMIT AN ADEQUATE OUTSIDE INQUIRY INTO THE MASSACRE CHARGES. NONETHELESS, THE FCO HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT HMG, FOR ITS PART, IS DETERMINED TO SEE THE VISIT THROUGH. IT DOES NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT IN VIEW OF THE GROWING FUROR, CAETANO MAY DECIDE NOT TO COME.
3. THE AUTHOR OF THE TIMES' STORY, FATHER ADRIAN HASTINGS, WAS ONE OF THREE FEATURED SPEAKERS TODAY AT A LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY THE CATHOLIC INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (CIIR). THE LUNCHEON, SCHEDULED A MONTH IN ADVANCE, ATTRACTED AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF 150 POLITICIANS, DIPLOMATS, NEWSMEN, CHURCHMEN, AND OTHERS, AND IS SURE TO RECEIVE WIDESPREAD MEDIA ATTENTION THIS EVENING AND TOMORROW. THE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD AFTER THE SPEECHES SPARKED SEVERAL SPIRITED EXCHANGES, INCLUDING A MINI-DEBATE BETWEEN CONSERVATIVE AND LABOR MPS PRESENT.
4. HASTINGS, WHO SPENT TWELVE YEARS IN AFRICA AS A MISSIONARY (BUT WAS ONLY BRIEFLY IN MOZAMBIQUE), REFUSED TO OFFER MORE SPECIFIC EVIDENCE ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF HIS REPORT LEST HE ENDANGER THEM. NONETHELESS, HE AND OTHER CATHOLIC PRIESTS WITH WHOM WE SPOKE AT THE CIIR LUNCHEON WERE ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED OF THE REPORT'S AUTHENTICITY AND INSISTED THAT THE MASSACRE AT WIRIYAMU WAS BUT ONE EXAMPLE OF A WIDESPREAD
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PORTUGUESE CAMPAIGN OF TERROR IN MOZAMBIQUE. (FCO INSISTS JUST AS STOUTLY THAT IT HAS ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE TO CORROBORATE HASTINGS' REPORT.)
5. A SECOND SPEAKER AT THE CIIR LUNCHEON WAS MARIO SOARES, EXILED LEADER OF THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP). HE DESCRIBED BRITAIN'S INVITATION TO CAETANO AS "OXYGEN FOR A DYING MAN," AND URGED THAT PORTUGAL BE EXCLUDED FROM MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND ASSOCIATION WITH THE EC UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE PRESENT FASCIST REGIME HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT. SOARES IS IN BRITAIN AT THE INVITATION OF THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY, AND HIS APPEAL COINCIDES WITH THE LABOR PARTY'S NEW POLICY ON PORTUGAL
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(SEE LONDON 5911). IN FACT, A LABOR PARTY SPOKESMAN REVEALED TODAY THAT THE PARTY HAS ALREADY APPROACHED THE NORWEGIAN, DANISH, AND DUTCH LABOR PARTIES TO TRY TO ENLIST THEIR SUPPORT FOR THIS POLICY.
6. SOARES MET WITH LABOR PARTY LEADERS YESTERDAY AND SECURED THEIR PLEDGE TO COOPERATE WITH THE PSP IN ITS EFFORTS TO GAIN THE POLITICAL SUPPORT OF TWO MILLION PORTUGUESE WORKERS LIVING OUTSIDE PORTUGAL. THE PSP CAME INTO BEING IN ITS PRESENT FORM JUST TWO MONTHS AGO AT A MEETING IN GERMANY, AND SOARES INDICATED THAT HIS

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TALKS WITH THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY WERE MERELY THE
FIRST IN A SERIES HE IS PLANNING WITH SOCIALIST AND
LABOR PARTIES THROUGHOUT WESTERN EUROPE.

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